

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 2, 3, 6-8, 9, 11, 14, and 15 as indicated in attached Appendix A.

A listing of the status of all claims 1-15 in the present patent application is provided in attached Appendix A.

APPENDIX A

1 (cancelled).

2 (Currently Amended). A lifting apparatus for transferring a user to and from a seat of a vehicle, the apparatus comprising:

a mounting and support assembly for attachment to a chassis of the vehicle;

an extension arm assembly directly coupled to ~~supported by~~ the mounting and support assembly such that the extension arm assembly is located substantially behind the vehicle seat; and

a transfer seat assembly directly coupled to ~~supported by~~ the extension arm assembly for directly supporting a user seated thereon;

wherein the extension arm assembly is operative to raise and lower the transfer seat assembly such that the transfer seat assembly may be positioned is substantially adjacent to and level with a sitting portion of the vehicle seat when the transfer seat assembly is raised by the extension arm assembly.

3 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of claim 2, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the transfer seat assembly comprises:

a support member directly coupled to ~~attached between~~ the extension arm assembly; and ~~the~~

a transfer seat directly coupled to the support member for

directly supporting a user seated thereon.

4 (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the support member pivots about a substantially horizontal axis between a substantially horizontal position and a substantially vertical position.

5 (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the transfer seat pivots about a substantially horizontal axis when the support member is in its substantially horizontal position and about a substantially vertical axis when the support member is in its substantially vertical position, such that the transfer seat pivots between a substantially horizontal seating position and a substantially vertical stowed position when the support member is in its substantially horizontal position.

6 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the transfer seat is modular and removable.

7 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the vehicle seat is located directly adjacent to a doorway of the vehicle.

8 (Currently Amended). A lifting apparatus for transferring a user to and from a seat of a vehicle, the apparatus comprising:

a mounting and support assembly for attachment to a chassis of the vehicle;

an extension arm assembly directly coupled to ~~supported by~~ the mounting and support assembly such that the extension arm assembly is located substantially in front of the vehicle seat; and

a transfer seat assembly directly coupled to ~~supported by~~ the extension arm assembly for directly supporting a user seated thereon;

wherein the extension arm assembly is operative to raise and lower the transfer seat assembly such that the transfer seat assembly ~~may be positioned~~ is substantially adjacent to and level with a sitting portion of the vehicle seat when the transfer seat assembly is raised by the extension arm assembly.

9 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the extension arm assembly comprises telescoping inner and outer members.

10 (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the extension arm assembly comprises telescoping inner and outer members.

11 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of claim 8, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the transfer seat assembly comprises:

a support member directly coupled to ~~attached between~~ the extension arm assembly; and ~~the~~

a transfer seat directly coupled to the support member for directly supporting a user seated thereon.

12 (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the support member pivots about a substantially horizontal axis between a substantially horizontal position and a substantially vertical position.

13 (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the transfer seat pivots about a substantially horizontal axis when the support member is in its substantially horizontal position and about a substantially vertical axis when the support member is in its substantially vertical position, such that the transfer seat pivots between a substantially horizontal seating position and a substantially vertical stowed position when the support member is in its substantially horizontal position.

14 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of claim ~~8~~11, wherein the

transfer seat is modular and removable.

15 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the vehicle seat is located directly adjacent to a doorway of the vehicle.